The Cradle of the Sea

Chapter 15

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JUST DO WHATEVER YOU CAN, OKAY?

GRAB

SORRY, TONY, BUT I'LL LEAVE THIS TO YOU!

Chapter 15 - True Identity

SFX: CLOP X 2

HUH?

WHAT'S GOING ON?

CLATTER

WHAT?! WHERE ARE YOU GOING?!

SORRY! I'LL BE BACK LATER!

GRAB

WHAT ABOUT THE DOG?

FOR NOW, WE'D BETTER GET TO THE PIER.

SFX: SPLASH, SPLOSH X 2

PIER. 1811

THERE!

SNUFF

WOOF

FLUTTER

SFX: CHATTER X 6

Chapter 15 - True Identity

BOAT PIER. 1811

WOOF

ガヤ

LOOKS LIKE WE'RE HEADING TO THE PASSENGER BOAT PIER.

Hic!

Evan?

WOOF

We're still open. Leave him be.

Miss? What should we do with him?

Hic!

THAT BAS'RD GEORGE, 'S ALWAYS TREATIN' ME LIKE A FOOL...

HUH...? WHAT'RE THEY DOIN'... WHERE THEY GOIN...?

CHATTER

CHATTER

DID YOU BRING IT?

PASSENGERS LINE

SFX: SPLASH X3, CHATTER X4

ザワ…

ザワ

ザワ…

ザワ…

SFX: CHATTER X 4

HEY! WHERE'S PAPA?

Ah.

TAP
TAP
TAP

MISS H...

RIGHT.

SO WHY DON'T YOU COME WITH ME?

A FRIEND ...?

HE'S A FRIEND.

ERIC? I'M SEARCHING FOR HIM TOO.

SFX: SLIP

SFX: REACH

ERIC IS INDISPEN-SIBLE FOR THE CRADLE.

AS A SHIP BUILDER...

CR...

WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THE CRADLE?!

SFX: GRAB

WHAT ABOUT YOU?

JUST WHO ARE YOU?

I'M THE ENGINEER ON LADY OF THE SEA.

GRAB

THE EN-GINEER DURING THAT STORM?

AND YOU KNOW ABOUT THE CRADLE?

RUSTLE

GET THEM!

THERE THEY ARE!

RUSTLE

RUN!

TCH. YOU WERE FOLLOWED.

SNATCH

WE'LL HAVE TO CONTINUE THIS CON-VERSATION LATER!

AFTER THEM!

SFX: STOMP

AH!

A!!!

HEY!

EEK!

SFX: SLAM

HIS AP-PRENTICE! GET HIM!

LET'S GO!

Yaaah!

CHATTER

SQUEEZE

!

WAIT!

SFX: THRUST

Y... YOU GUYZ... WHAT'RE... HIC YOU... DOIN' HERE... YOU HIS... PAWNS...?

SFX: WOBBLE, GLARE, HIC

SFX: CHATTER X 4

QUIET! WE'LL DEAL WITH YOU ON THE SHIP!

HEY! WHY THE HELL'D YOU TAKE ME?! HIC!

THAT'S AS FAR AS YOU'LL GO. THE CHASE IS OVER,

SIR.

WOBBLE

NG..?

ドタッ

SFX: SLAM

カロン

HEY, WAIT!

I DIDN' DO AN'THI—

SFX: CLANG X2

SFX: SQUEEZE

LOUIS, YOU KNEW ABOUT THE CRADLE BEFORE, TOO...

UM... MISS H... SAID THAT MASTER... UH, ERIC WAS CRADLE'S SHIP... BUILDER.

THERE MIGHT BE SOME CON-NECTION...

WE DIDN'T LEARN A THING FROM THE DUKE...

...

NOW'S NOT REALLY A GOOD TIME TO TALK.

SO CAN YOU PLEASE TELL ME ABOUT CRADLE?!

C... CRADLE?

I KNOW! BUT...

WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO FIGURE OUT SOME-THING.

PLEASE.

BRUSH

...

FINE. I'LL TALK.

IF IT HADN'T BEEN FOR THE ACCIDENT...

WE WERE BUILDING THE CRADLE 5 YEARS AGO.

EXPERIMENTAL SHIP #4, LOWER THE ANCHOR!

SFX: HONK X2, CHATER X3, CLANG X2, CHATTER X2, PUTTER X2

Yes sir!

OKAY! UN-FASTEN THE RIGGING AND CHECK FOR DAMAGE!

LOIUS! WHERE ARE YOU GOING?!

I'VE GOT THE ENGINE RESULTS! IT LOOKS GOOD, SO I'M GONNA TAKE 'EM IN!

Yeah!

LET'S GET IT DONE BEFORE THOSE ENGI-NEERS GET HERE!

SFX: TAP

HUP

'SCUSE ME?

HOP

AH, SHUT IT!

No.4

SCHLUP

HEY, LOUIS! YOU GETTIN' TOO GOOD FOR US ORPHAN SAILORS AND THINKIN' YOU'RE AN ENGI-NEER NOW?

S. ENGINE

DON'T DISTURB ME!

SFX: CHATTER X 2

#7....

#7...

9"

SFX: CHATTER X2, CLOP

IT'S IMPOS-SIBLE! HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO TELL YOU THAT?! THEY'LL SPLIT THE HULL!

WHY DO YOU THINK THEY'RE EXPERI-MENTAL SHIPS?!

THIS IS WHY WE DON'T HAVE ANY RE-SULTS!

THAT'S WHY I'M SAYIN' WE HAFTA MAKE THE PROPEL-LERS BIGGER!

CLACK

SOPHIA!

SFX: YELL

SFX: CLATTER X2

Heh heh!

NOW...

IF YOU DON'T HURRY THEY'LL SWEEP IT ALL CLEAN!

ANYONE WHO WANTS TO SEE RESULTS SHOULD GO LOOK AT IT!

HAA...

Heeey!

WHAT?!

THIS IS WHY!

STOP DREAMING SO MUCH. YOU'LL CAUSE THE LADY PROB-LEMS.

EXPERI-MENTAL SHIP #4 IS BACK!

Heh heh!

DON'T TEASE THE ENGINEERS.

WHY NOT? THEY WERE THE ONES COMPLAIN-ING.

QUIET DOWN!

GOOD TO BE BACK, LEADER.

WELCOME BACK, GENIUS BOY.

RUSTLE

...

TAP

SIGH... MY HEAD HURTS. THAT'S THE ENGINEERS' REPORT. IT'S AWFUL.

I TOLD THEM THAT THE SHIP DESIGN TEAM WANTS TO INCREASE THE PROPELLERS BUT THEY SAY IT'S IMPOSSIBLE!

SFX: CLOMP

AND?

WHAT WERE YOU FIGHTING OVER THIS TIME?

CRADLE HAS A HIGH VISCOUS RESISTANCE.

THERE MUST BE SOME KIND OF NEW STRATEGY, RIGHT?

IF WE DO THAT, THE HORSEPOWER DROPS TOO MUCH.

WE'VE TAUGHT YOU WELL. THAT'S A GOOD ANSWER. UNFORTUNATELY...

THE RESISTANCE FROM THAT SHOULD LOGICALLY GATHER IN THE TOP PART OF THE SHIP... IF WE MOVE THE PROPELLORS ANOTHER 30 DEGREES FROM WHERE THEY ARE IN THE BLUEPRINT, YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO MAKE THEM LARGER.

AND BOOKW OF HORSEPOWER!

A GUPPY ENGINE... PISTONS FIRING AN AVERAGE NUMBER OF TIMES, AND TESTS SHOWING 84% CALBIRATION, AND NO DAMAGE...

HERE'S THE ENGINE ANALYSIS FROM THE LATEST SHIP.

WITH THIS, THE ANSWER'S FINE, RIGHT?

IT'LL WORK, RIGHT?

CLATTER

GUPPY ENGINES ARE REASONABLY PRICED, TOO.

RUB RUB

WITH THIS...

WITH ALL THIS,

IT'LL BE A GOOD SHIP.

YEAH!

CREAK

SFX: SPLASH

SPLASH

CREAK CHCHUNK

I ALWAYS KNEW THAT OPPOSITION TO NEW IDEAS IN THE WORLD OF SHIPBUILDING WOULD BE STRONG.

AT FIRST I THOUGHT WE WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO DO THIS.

CLICK CLICK

IT'S A DARK WORLD WHEN EVERYONE OPPOSES PROGRESS.

Proposal for New Iron ship B/W 1864

AND WE COULDN'T GET THE GOVERNMENT TO SUBSIDIZE THIS, EVEN THOUGH WE WOULD BE WORKING TO INCREASE THE COUNTRY'S PROSPERITY.

I'VE GATHERED LIKE-MINDED PATRONS FROM AROUND THE WORLD.

WITH THEIR HELP, WE WERE ABLE TO FREELY CONSTRUCT THIS SHIP. EVERYTHING WILL GO SMOOTHLY NOW.

BUT THAT'S CHANGED.

LIKE ME?

Fixed it! Neat, huh?

SFX: SPIN X2, SCRINK X2

AND I FOUND PEOPLE WITH ABILITY AND DREAMS.

SFX: SCRINK X2

RIGHT.

SHIP LIFE WILL NEVER BE THE SAME AGAIN.

BECAUSE EVERYONE HERE...

SPLASH

SFX: PUFF X 3, PUTTER X 4, BUBBLE X2

INTO THIS SHIP.

IS PUTING THEIR HOPES...

WHAT ARE THEY EVEN TALKING ABOUT?

THE ALCOHOL'S ... WEARING OFF.

ALL MY FRIENDS WHO WERE ON BOARD THE SHIP... DIED.

THE ENGINE EXPLODED THE DAY BEFORE WE WERE GOING TO TEST IT IN THE WATER.

SO THE ACCIDENT THAT MADE YOU QUIT BEING AN ENGI-NEER...

THERE WAS NO WAY I COULD LEARN WHAT HAD HAPPENED.

I WAS HOSPITALIZED WITH SEVERE INJURIES,

AND WHEN I WOKE FROM MY COMA A YEAR LATER, THERE WAS NO SIGN OF THE CRADLE.

THAT'S...

ALL...

SINCE I QUIT ENGINEERING,

I HADN'T RIDDEN ON A SHIP AT ALL UNTIL I MET YOU TWO.

UNTIL A YEAR AGO, I COULDN'T FIND ANY WORK AT ALL WITH MY INJURIES.

AND NOW I'VE FINALLY FOUND A CLUE.

ARRESTED FOR BEING DRUNK, HUH?

SFX: FLINCH

WHACK

OW!

CLICK

!

WE HAVE CONFIDENCE IN YOU AS THE SECOND SON OF THE BIZET FAMILY AND A FORMER NAVAL ACADEMY STUDENT.

FORMER NAVAL ACADEMY?

SECOND SON?

YOU'RE FREE TO GO, NEAL.

HUH?!

WHY DID YOU HIDE THAT LIST OF PARTS FROM US?

AS FOR THE REST OF YOU, WE HAVE QUESTIONS.

SWEAT

PLEASE DON'T DO ANYTHING MORE FOOLISH THAN THIS.

THE DUKE ASKED ME.

WHY DON'T YOU LET US SEE HIM?

ANSWER TRUTHFULLY, OR THINGS WILL GO BADLY FOR YOU.

?!

WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

THE DUKE...

YOU'LL NEVER SEE HIM AGAIN.

THE DUKE IS CONFINED TO OUR SHIP UNTIL WE SET OFF TO-MORROW.

YOU MUST KNOW SOMETHING ABOUT THIS "CRADLE" THAT'S WRITTEN ON THE PARTS LIST, RIGHT?

DO YOU UNDERSTAND YOUR SITUATION?

IF YOU DON'T WANT TO BE IMPRISONED AS WELL, YOU'D BETTER TALK.

LEWIS?!

I'LL TALK. BUT ONLY IF YOU LET THESE TWO GO.

A DETENTION SHIP'S NO PLACE FOR KIDS.

FWIP

YOU CAN'T TELL THEM!

TAP

FINE.

WHILE THEY'RE OCCUPIED, RUN AWAY AND SEE IF YOU CAN FIND THE DUKE.

WHISPER

IT'S FINE. I WON'T TELL THEM A THING.

VERY WELL...

I WILL CONVEY WHAT YOU'VE SAID.

LEWIS?

ABOUT EARLIER...

I DIDN'T KNOW THIS GUY YOU WORKED FOR, BUT THERE WERE PLENTY OF PATRONS FOR CRADLE THAT I DIDN'T KNOW.

THE GOVERN-MENT MUST KNOW WHAT WE'RE BOTH SEARCHING FOR.

WE CAN'T GIVE UP.

I'LL SEE WHAT I CAN LEARN FROM THEM.

BUT THIS MIGHT BE THE LAST TIME WE SEE EACH OTHER.

I KNOW I KEEP SAYING YOU'VE DRAGGED ME INTO THIS AGAINST MY WILL.

BUT THANK YOU.

ガヤ

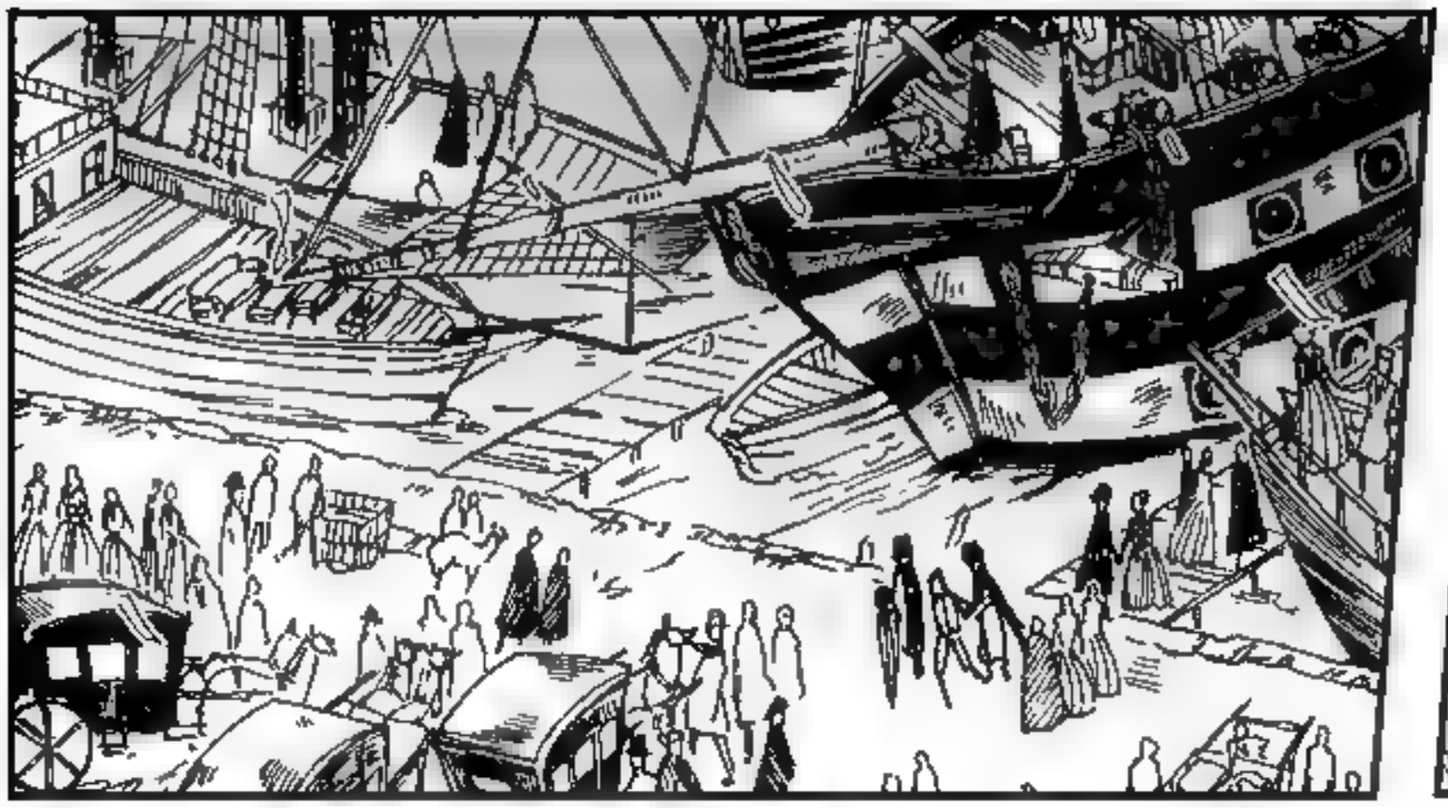
ガヤ

ガヤ

SFX: CHATTER X 4

NOW THAT THE RACE IS OVER, THE NAVY'S CELEBRATING TOO, HUH? IT MAY BE NORMAL PRACTICE, BUT IT'S SLOPPY...

HURRY IT UP!



NOW GO!
AND DON'T
COME BACK!

"THIS MIGHT BE THE LAST TIME WE SEE EACH OTHER."

LEWIS...

IF HE MAKES A SINGLE MIS-STEP, HE'LL BE FOLLOWING THE DUKE ON THAT SHIP...

...

MISS H BYE-BYE?

LEWIS TOO?

"HM...

DON'T LIKE BYE-BYE!

FLINCH

YOU'RE... RIGHT.

BUT HOW?

HOW CAN WE RE-BOARD THAT?

WE HAVE TO SAVE THEM.

HEY! WHERE'S MY RED CAPE?!

SFX: HA HA HA! X2

SFX: CLATTER X2

I'M SORRY!

UGH! IF ANYTHING GOES WRONG, IT'S YOUR FAULT.

PLEASE WAIT! THERE'S TOO MANY OTHER CLOTHES!

DO YOU EXPECT ME TO BOARD THE NAVY'S SHIP WEARING THIS?!

EXACTLY WHO ARE YOU? WHAT ARE YOU HIDING?

ISN'T IT ABOUT TIME YOU EXPLAIN?

HIDING...

CLENCH

I'LL EXPLAIN EVERY-THING.

BUT FIRST, I NEED YOU TO TAKE CARE OF EVAN FOR A WHILE.

It's just for a while... I'm sorry.

STOP! I CAN'T DEAL WITH KIDS!

SFX: THRUST

UH, WHAT? HEY!

SOME-WHERE WITH NO PEOPLE...

SFX: GLANCE, MURMUR

Ah....

AAAH!

GRAB

SFX: EMPTY

SFX: WHAM

DO I LOOK OKAY...?

N...

NE...

NEAL!

HUH?

UM... I KNOW IT'S ASKING A LOT.

BUT PLEASE.

CAN YOU SOMEHOW HELP ME RESCUE LEWIS?